

A

SHORT SKETCH
OF THE
PROVINCE OF UPPER CANADA,
FOR
THE INFORMATION OF THE LABOURING POOR
THROUGHOUT ENGLAND.
TO WHICH IS PREFIXED
THOUGHTS ON COLONIZATION.

ADDRESSED TO
THE LABOURING POOR, THE CLERGY, SELECT VESTRIES, AND OVERSEERS
OF THE POOR, AND OTHER PERSONS, INTERESTED IN THE ADMI-
NISTRATION OF PARISH RELIEF IN THE DIFFERENT
PARISHES IN ENGLAND.

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PROVINCE OF UPPER CANADA.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

My object, in publishing the following statistical sketch of Upper Canada, being to afford information to the lower classes, I have considered it necessary, in order to ensure in any degree their confidence in the accuracy of the facts stated, that the name of the Author should be known, that he may be held responsible for the correctness of his statements, otherwise I should not have obtruded my name upon the public, fearing censure more than anticipating applause.

As my desire, however, has been solely the amelioration of the condition of a large body

of my own suffering countrymen, I trust I shall experience the charitable consideration of those in the higher classes of society, who may chance to read what I have said on the subject of colonization.

THOUGHTS
ON
COLONIZATION.

OBSERVING the state of pauperism which exists in many parishes that I have visited since my return to England from Upper Canada, and reflecting upon the facility of the improvement of the poor in those parishes, if they knew how to improve and had the means of bettering their condition ; I have thought that I could not better employ a few hours, than in opening to their view a country to which I have emigrated with advantage, in order that they might avail themselves of the great benefits which I have seen accrue to the poorest colonists, by pursuing the plan

here proposed. My observations exclusively apply to the case of able-bodied labourers, for whose labour no real demand exists, and who are consequently thrown upon the parish.

The love of one's country is certainly a virtue of the highest order, but the love of one's children and family is one of still greater value; and, therefore, I ask which is the more worthy an Englishman? to live with his family in the village in which he was born, dependent upon the necessarily parsimonious hand of a parish officer, or to emigrate to a healthy and flourishing Colony, under the same crown, where his usefulness will demand and ensure that respect which is due to his nature, and where he will command by his own exertions a much more plentiful supply of the necessaries of life.

The poor-laws have a demoralizing influence, and an able-bodied Englishman ought to be ashamed of taking advantage of them, if it be possible for him to maintain his own independence by his labour; but if no means of maintaining it exist, he is necessarily justified

in preferring the degradation which such a resort imposes on him, to the alternative of absolute want. It is stated that paupers have often times brought themselves within the law for the purpose of obtaining the usual relief. But how great a sacrifice of self-respect, and of every just and sound feeling, must be made before such a claim could be preferred !

In Upper Canada, the emigrant, if not so habituated to idleness as to neglect the advantages the country holds out to him, can in two or three years earn sufficient money to purchase fifty acres of freehold land. He then becomes a juror, an elector of his own representative in Parliament, whose vote is canvassed with as much care as that of the squire in the parish he left behind him ; and finds himself respected and looked up to, as one of the yeomanry of the country. He sees his family growing up around him, all looking forward with a full assurance of equal independence when they arrive at man's estate. This is no picture of my own fancy,

it is what I have seen delineated a hundred times in real life.

If paupers had no means of improving their condition, and were bound by misfortune to endure these ills, I trust I should be the last man, who would wantonly insult suffering humanity; but when people in this state will absurdly talk of the hardships attending emigration, and the violence which the thought does to their feelings, I must confess I can feel little compassion for such folly.

I must, however, do the majority of those to whom I have spoken, the justice to say, that they have manifested a strong desire to go to Upper Canada, or anywhere else, were a ray of hope was held out to them of bettering either themselves or their families by the change, and have complained of the want of means to remove themselves to any of the colonies.

And this brings me to say a word or two to the vestries, clergy, and overseers of the poor in the different parishes.

"Increase and multiply and replenish the earth," says the great Author of the Uni-

verse; but the crowded state of the population of this part of the Island, has induced a state of society incompatible with this great command.

People in moderate circumstances are deterred from marrying, for fear of bringing both themselves and their offspring to penury and want. And those of better fortunes are more solicitous to form a sort of matrimonial partnership, founded upon pecuniary equality, than an alliance cemented by mutual love and affection, which are the only sure guarantees of future felicity.

Among the lower classes matrimony is discouraged by the more opulent, lest they should in the end be called upon to maintain their progeny. And though I am no enemy to "love in a cottage," yet I must confess, that love under a hedge is but a chilly alliance; and therefore I cannot blame those who discourage marriage amongst persons who have no visible means of supporting their families.

This state of society is not a matter of

astonishment, it is the natural consequence of the wealth and prosperity of the nation, combined with our insular situation. That it exists there can be no doubt, and that a remedy for the evils arising out of it is loudly called for, is equally obvious, and what that remedy must be, I consider equally apparent, namely, emigration. To replenish the earth is to emigrate from those portions of it where the inhabitants have already increased and multiplied, and, therefore, instead of enacting poor-laws, to support a superfluous population, which, in spite of all the miseries attendant upon the prospective pauperism of the offspring of indigent marriages, still continues to increase, means should be adopted to give vent to that part of our population which otherwise will become burthensome.

This I consider to be not merely essential in a political point of view to the well-being and prosperity of the nation, but in a moral and religious sense, to be the duty of those who have the management of the poor confided to them.

When Abram and Lot returned out of Egypt, and found, from the strifes among their herdsmen, that their flocks and herds were so great, that the land was not able to bear them, “ Abram said unto Lot, let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen; *for we be brethren.* Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me. And Lot lifted up his eyes and beheld all the Plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere. Then Lot chose him all the Plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east; and they separated themselves one from the other.”

And this practice has been adopted in all succeeding ages of the world to the present time, and by no nation more successfully, either in a political, moral, or religious sense, than our own.

But though we have done much, I think we have not done any thing like enough.

When a strife arose among the herdsmen of Abram and Lot, we do not find penal laws

enacted, to repress and punish evils, arising, as a natural consequence, from “the land not being able to bear them, that they might dwell together,” but we find that the great patriarch proposed the natural remedy for the natural disorder, *viz.*, to remove the cause by a friendly separation; and Lot chose him all the “plain of Jordan, and journeyed eastward.”

The same crisis has long ago arisen in England. The population is so great, “that the land is not able to bear them;” and with a view to alleviate the consequent distress which has followed, I humbly but strenuously recommend the poor of this country to choose them the fertile valley of the St. Lawrence, which they will find “well watered everywhere.”

No man, I apprehend, will venture to deny that nine-tenths of the crime which we see daily punished in this kingdom arises from the delinquents having no visible means of obtaining an honest livelihood; and therefore it is the duty of those, who have it in their

power to aid, by their countenance and support, by their influence as well as money, in removing those unfortunate people, who from their poverty are placed in temptation they cannot withstand, to a situation where they may have an opportunity of supporting themselves and their families, without committing offences against God and their own consciences, or being a burthen instead of a benefit to the country they live in.

Giving a distressed man pecuniary relief is unquestionably an act of charity, but giving him wholesome advice, and using one's interest to place him in a situation where he will no longer need such assistance, is a charity of a higher order. The one is temporary, the other permanent; the one removes a present temptation to commit crime, the other places the object above it.

What vestry, if they knew that by paying ten guineas for the passage of a labourer in the prime of life to any of the colonies, he would be saved from the commission of crimes that would bring him to an ignominious death,

would hesitate in affording that sum, or twice the amount? And, although they cannot foretel such a catastrophe as about to befall any man by name, yet they must daily observe persons out of employment leading dissolute lives, and evidently marching in the high road to ruin; and it is their duty to arrest their progress in vice, if in their power, by putting them in the situation of earning an honest livelihood.

This is charity, and charity of the highest order; a charity which I hope to see exercised by some of the leading men of this country, both in and out of Parliament; and I am proud to think, that upon most occasions there seems to be no lack of this inestimable quality amongst my countrymen.

We have public meetings and petitions to Parliament for the suppression of slavery, Bible Societies, and innumerable others for the amelioration of mankind; and shall the people of England be at vast expense in sending missionaries to teach the savage to adore the great Author of his existence, and not

aid their fellow-christians, who are in need of such employment, to accompany them, to reclaim the forest, and teach its inhabitants the arts of civil life?

Is it not the duty of this great nation to extend to the uttermost parts of the earth, by all legitimate means not injurious to herself, the advantages of those civil and religious institutions which have placed her on the pinnacle of human greatness?

What a subject of proud contemplation for Englishmen is the continent of America ! The North speaking our language, adopting our manners and customs, and enjoying the full benefits of those principles of free government which they inherited from their parent state ; and the South introducing them, as far as the barbarous state to which Spain and the inquisition has reduced it will permit. Can there be a more striking proof of the important consequences attendant on English colonization ?

Example is far beyond precept, and, therefore, neither the liberal and free principles of

our government, nor the pure doctrines of our reformed religion, can be so effectually spread by the publications teeming from our press, as by the swarms of people bred in those principles annually issuing from this prolific hive.

“ Bring up the child in the way wherein he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Wherever the eagles of ancient Rome spread their victorious wings, they brought in their train her language and her laws; of which modern Europe bears ample testimony at this day. And when the greatness of the British Empire shall, in the natural course of the rise and fall of nations, have passed away, will not the memory of England be cherished in the western hemisphere as the great parent of all their civil and religious institutions, whose language, arts, and sciences shall then have spread over that vast continent, “ as the waters cover the sea.”

But, if we look at colonization only in a selfish point of view, and merely as a means

of improving the condition of those who remain at home, and as a mode of relieving the wealthy from the burthen of providing for the poor, no other method, I feel satisfied, can be pointed out, which will so essentially attain both these objects.

If Colonization Societies* were formed

* While the above was in the press, I observed the following paragraphs in the *Morning Post* of the 14th of February and 6th of March :—

“ Two hundred and sixty colonists, chiefly Scotch families, sent out by the Columbian Agriculturist Association, arrived at Caraccas about the end of December.”

“ The Countess of Morley, with two hundred and fifty agriculturists and settlers for Rio de la Plata, will shortly sail from Plymouth. This is the third ship the Rio de la Plata Agricultural Society have chartered to convey settlers. The settlement is about two hundred and fifty miles from Buenos Ayres.”

These emigrants with their capitals, by the same exertions used by British, instead of South American Colonization Societies, might probably have been induced to remove to Upper Canada, a climate much more congenial to their constitutions ; thereby adding strength to that part of the empire, instead

throughout the kingdom, and a proper impulse given to what, I am convinced from personal inquiry, is the natural inclination of the poor, *viz.*, to remove to some of our healthy English colonies, I think the Poor-laws might be gradually repealed.

The following outline of a bill for furthering the object, I would suggest as proper to be brought into Parliament.

And let it be observed, that the acceptance of the advantages held out by it is optional, and therefore such a law could do no harm. And the operation of it must necessarily be so gradual, that there will be no danger of any serious evil arising, before Parliament would have an opportunity of remedying it.

HEADS OF THE PROPOSED BILL.

1st. Repeal so much of the laws now in force for the relief of the poor, as *enable* parish officers to grant relief to persons not of being now for ever lost to the Parent State, and laying, perhaps, the foundation for many of their friends following them.—H. J. B.

afflicted with any permanent disability to labour.

2nd. Empower the select vestries to raise money upon the security of the poors'-rates, redeemable by annuity in a given number of years, (thirty, perhaps, would be a reasonable period,) and to apply this fund in aid of any parishioner representing himself as unable to procure work, and therefore desirous of emigrating to some of the colonies to be named in the bill, provided that it shall not be compulsory on the vestry to afford this aid, unless they are satisfied of the inability of the applicant to procure work in the parish at such a rate as will enable him to maintain his family, with an appeal to two justices, in case of refusal.

3rd. That upon the vestry being satisfied of the propriety of his application, they shall authorize the overseer of the poor to give him a ticket to an agent at some sea-port, to provide a passage, with necessary provisions and clothing for the voyage.

The North American colonies, I appre-

hend, are the best adapted for this purpose, as well for the colonist as for the parish, the voyage thither being less expensive than that to the Cape of Good Hope, or New South Wales, &c.

3d. When any person has received a ticket or this passage, and has gone on board, he should lose his settlement in the parish, and never after be entitled to relief there.

4th. Upon proof being made to the satisfaction of the justices of the quarter-sessions, in the county where the parish shall be situate, that no parish relief has been granted, by the parish applying, to any person other than those before excepted, for the space of two years last past, the chairman shall certify the same, and cause the certificate to be entered with the clerk of the peace, whereupon the poor laws shall be considered as repealed in that parish, but not to affect the loans raised on the poor-rates.

5th. When the poor-laws cease to exist in any given parish, let the vestry be empowered to raise by assessment, from time to time,

what may be necessary for the support of a poor-house, where none shall be received except the persons before excepted, namely, those afflicted with any permanent disability to labour, whether from age or infirmity.

6th. Also let the vestry have a discretionary power to aid occasional applicants to emigrate to the colonies, if they see fit.

The parishes would thus be enabled, as it were, to redeem their poor's-rates by one gross payment, in the same manner as individuals can redeem their land-tax, and the country would eventually be relieved from this intolerable burden. Should some such plan as the one just suggested, be carried into effect, and a sufficient number emigrate to equalize the number of hands with the quantum of work, so that each person in the community can obtain a fair remuneration for his labour, the whole population of the country will regain its native vigour, and independence of character.

The aged and infirm parent will be sustained in the decline of life by the child, the natural

prop of decaying years,—the unfortunate or crippled brother or sister will be assisted by the more prosperous and healthy ; and the natural affections of the heart, no longer chilled by adversity, will resume their wonted influence over the mind, and sons and daughters, brothers and sisters will no longer endure the sight of their own blood languishing in a workhouse, while they are enjoying comfort at home.

Giving money to the poor, and founding charitable institutions for their reception, when grown old and infirm, is adding to the evil, unless emigration keeps pace with the increase of population.

Half the money laid out in promoting colonization, would reduce the population to a wholesome level with the wants and demands of each other, and the exuberant part, instead of constituting an excrescence, communicating disease throughout the system, would become a healthy body, in its turn, performing all those functions for which nature designed it.

The young and the healthy being inde-

pendent, would be enabled to maintain their own infirm and aged relatives, and the inmates of the almshouse would be gradually diminished.

Emigration will not only be effectual, but lasting in its benefits, because when the population of the country has found its proper level, and the advantages accruing to both parties, those who remove, and those who stay at home, have been felt, the labouring class will never again remain long enough without regular employment, to become so far reduced as to be incapable of availing themselves of this resource. But if they should occasionally find themselves in such distress, the more wealthy having also seen the advantages of the system, would be more willing to lend their aid in furthering their intention.

Scotland presents a practical example of the truth of my hypothesis.

If the population is too great now, what will it be at the close of the present century, if it increases for the next as it has done for

the last seventy years*? London has attained a magnitude which is hardly credible to fo-

* In 1750, the population of England and Wales was estimated, according to the Parliamentary returns, at 6,467,000.

In 1820, that population had increased to 12,218,500. In 1749, which I take, because I have not been able to find any returns for 1750, and which I presume cannot be far different, the sum expended for the relief of paupers amounted only to 689,971*l.*, while in 1819, the amount expended for the like purpose, in time of profound peace also, be it remembered, had increased to the frightful sum of 7,329,594*l.*

Upon a return to a state of peace, it will be seen, that the number of men discharged from the naval and military services, and from other concomitant establishments, threw so vast a portion of hands out of employment, that crime instantly increased more than one-third.

In 1815, the year in which the war terminated, the committals for crime were 7,818. In 1816, the first of general peace, the committals increased rapidly to 9,091. But in the following year, when it may be presumed these persons had expended whatever allowances had been made them on their discharge, and when they were obliged to mingle in the general avocations of the rest of the community, and, of

reigners, and almost every town in the country is extending its limits in the same proportion. At what precise time, therefore, and by what course, increased, by their numbers, the labouring classes, we find that commitments for crime had increased to 13,932, and this appalling catalogue has shown no symptom of decline, but has occasionally advanced to upwards of 14,000.

Neither has a state of peace in any degree tended to diminish the amount of poor's-rates or the numbers to be relieved. In 1812, a year in which extraordinary military exertions were made, and not without a corresponding degree of glory to the British arms, our naval and military expenditure, exclusive of subsidies, amounted to no less than 49,740,112*l.* In the same year, wheat, of which is composed the staff of life, was higher than it had ever been before, or has ever been since ; it rose that year to the enormous average price of 125*s.* 5*d.* per quarter, and in this year the sum expended for the relief of the poor was 6,656,105*l.* while in 1822, when the naval and military expenditure was reduced to 13,900,437*l.*, and the price of wheat averaged 43*s.* 3*d.* per quarter, and when our foreign trade and manufactures were in a most flourishing condition, the sum expended for the relief of the poor amounted to 5,773,096*l.*, which taking into consideration the price of bread, almost the only food

specific means are we to look for a suspension of this increase? Are we to wait for some dreadful and appalling calamity which shall thin our people like a pestilence, or shall we not rather use the gentle remedy of gradually transplanting the too luxurious growth, before the whole becomes choked by its own exuberance?

Supernumerary labourers are like the dog in the manger, they cannot get work at a fair price themselves, and they prevent others from getting it too.

For example ; suppose a farmer has twenty acres of wheat to crop, requiring four men to do it in season, and there are precisely four

of the English pauper, must be considered as indicative of a material increase of pauperism in the country.

In the years 1817, 18, 19, a period of considerable distress in the manufacturing districts, the sums expended for the relief of the poor, were nearer eight than seven millions, upon an average, of each year.

Thus we see that whether in *peace* or in *war*, in commercial *prosperity* or *adversity*, PAUPERISM, with its loathsome catalogue of *crime*, keeps pace with the *increase of population*.

men to be had ; the demand is in exact proportion to the labour offered, and, consequently, the latter will be sure of meeting its fair reward. We will call three shillings per day a reasonable rate of wages, and suppose the farmer about to engage the four men on these terms, when up comes a supernumerary, who has been unable to procure employment, and is anxious for a job. He immediately says, “ Employ me, and I will gladly take two shillings per day instead of three,” of course the farmer accepts his offer to the exclusion of one of the four, who immediately stands in the same predicament with the new comer, and rather than be left without a place, makes the same offer, which is also accepted, to the exclusion of one of his companions, and thus the changes are rung upon the whole four, and their wages reduced one-third, by the introduction of the fifth man more than was required.

This is an age for doing away old restrictions, and if it be found beneficial to relieve our trade and commerce from those shackles,

surely the population of the country cannot but improve by having their locomotive faculties fully restored. There should neither be restraint upon a man's motions, nor bounty upon his idleness, both of which are concomitants of the poor-laws. Let labourers go where they please, and if they cannot get work in one parish, let them go freely to another, and if they cannot get employment at home, let them go to some other part of the Empire, which, when the means are provided them, they will readily do, especially if there is no parish relief to maintain them in idleness.

Lest what I have said with regard to the poor-laws should be misconstrued, and lest it should be supposed that I am wishing to raise discontent among the lower classes, I beg to add, that the restraints which the poor-laws impose upon the objects of their charitable provisions appear to me to be quite necessary as a part of the system, though I do, in common, I believe, with most Englishmen, heartily wish such laws had never been en-

acted. They tend to counteract the laws of Nature, which point to colonization as the proper, legitimate, and *only* relief which a too crowded population is capable of.

Colonization is as natural a part of the economy of a nation, as the settling of children in the world is a part of the duty of those who bring them into it. And it adds strength to the parent state, in the same manner as the settlement and flourishing condition of one's children in a county, gives weight and influence to the head of the family.

Placing the gross amount of the poor's rates at £5,000,000 annually, which is below the average, what results might not be anticipated by employing one-fifth thereof to the purposes of colonization?

Such an appropriation of one-fifth of that sum, would be adequate to the settling in Upper Canada 50,000 paupers annually, supplying them with a year's provisions, necessary farming utensils, and a cow to each family, thereby enriching that fine portion of the empire by their industry, and creating an

increased demand for the manufactures of the parent state.

If the system were carried on for a few years, persons emigrating to Canada would find so many of their English neighbours there, that they would scarcely perceive their change of residence. The mother country would be relieved of a burden, and the colony be enriched by the accession of such a valuable population. In ten years, half a million of persons will have been removed from a state of interminable poverty and pauperism, to independence and prosperity, creating an increased demand for our manufactures, instead of remaining a clog to the industry of the nation.

It has been ascertained by actual experiment, that twenty pounds a head, including men, women, and children, is adequate to placing settlers on their lands in Upper-Canada, and furnishing them with a year's provisions, necessary utensils, and a cow for each family, which is doing the thing in a comfortable manner for the emigrant. But so de-

cided an advocate am I for emigration, and so certain am I of the benefits to accrue to the pauper by the change of situation, that I do not hesitate to recommend their removing to Canada, if they can barely obtain sufficient to pay their passage out, leaving all their future prospects to chance. Half the former sum will accomplish this. They will be sure of obtaining employment, and, therefore, though they will be longer in getting settled on their own lands, they will eventually become proprietors, if they continue steady and industrious.

In the spring of the year ships begin to leave Liverpool for Quebec in ballast, to bring home timber, and passages may be had, I believe, at that port between the 1st of April and the 1st of August, for two guineas a head, exclusive of provisions. Two months' provisions should be laid in to provide for accidents, though they might anticipate a voyage of five or six weeks. I believe a grown person may reckon upon procuring a passage from Liverpool to Quebec for seven guineas, including provisions.

There are numerous steam-boats plying between Quebec and Montreal, a distance of 180 miles, which they perform generally in twenty-four hours. Deck passengers are carried in these boats that distance for five shillings each, exclusive of provisions, and cabin passengers for thirty shillings, including provisions.

From Montreal to Prescott is 120 miles, and brings the emigrant into a flourishing part of Upper Canada, where he may begin to inquire for employment if he thinks proper, or he can easily get a passage either in steam-boats or schooners to the more western portions of the province. The journey from Montreal to Prescott is chiefly performed by the lower class of people in some of the numerous open boats, of from three to thirty tons burden, which are constantly plying with freight up and down the river St. Lawrence. The central parts of the province above Kingston, I would recommend to the emigrant, on account of the soil and the temperature of the climate.

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A SHORT SKETCH of the Province of UPPER
CANADA, for the Use of the poorer Class
of Persons disposed to emigrate thither.

SITUATION.

THE organized part of the province of Upper Canada stretches along the River St. Lawrence, and Lakes Ontario and Erie, to an extent of about 600 miles, and varies from 50 to 150 miles in breadth. Its north-eastern boundary is a day's ride from Montreal, whither vessels of 250 tons burden frequently ascend from the ocean, and the southern frontier is accessible from New York, in from six to twelve days' journey, by land or by water, varying according to the situation of the place in Canada one wishes to arrive at.

CLIMATE.

The climate of Upper Canada may properly be termed temperate, and I think would never be found oppressive by an Englishman in either season. The clothing necessary for rendering a seat on the outside of a stage-coach comfortable during the winter in England, would be found amply sufficient for resisting the ordinary cold of an Upper Canada winter's journey; and the heat in summer is always accompanied by genial breezes, which render it elastic, and prevent its becoming sultry. The nights are, with but few exceptions, cool and reviving after the hottest days. The best practical criterion, however, perhaps, is the dress of the inhabitants, which, varying according to the seasons, differs in no material respect from that of the corresponding classes in England.

SOIL.

The soil of Upper Canada is not surpassed by that of any other country of equal ex-

tent in either hemisphere; and it will be more intelligible to the class of persons for whom I am writing to say, that all the grass, grains, vegetables, fruits, and other productions which thrive in the open air in England, may be cultivated to perfection in Upper Canada. Clover and timothy are the most common grasses, and are, perhaps, the most profitable, as requiring least labour in their cure and cultivation. Wheat, rye, oats, pease, barley, buckwheat, tares, and Indian corn, are commonly cultivated. Flax and hemp may be and often are cultivated in great abundance. The crops vary more, perhaps, according to the labour bestowed and mode of agriculture adopted by the farmer, than in proportion to the fertility of the soil.

I have known six quarters and a half of wheat grown off an acre of good medium land, with the application of ordinarily good English husbandry; but I think half that crop would be nearer the average with fair culture. Hay varies from one to two and a half tons per acre, and chiefly from the like

causes. All kinds of building timber, wood for cabinet and joiner's work, &c., abound in all parts of the country.

LABOUR.

In Upper Canada labour is the staple capital of the country in its fullest sense. A man of any or no profession, trade, or handicraft, if sober and industrious, without a farthing to begin with, may set his foot in Upper Canada, with a stout heart and firm step, fully convinced that in four or five years he will become an independent freeholder, and in a few years more, require the aid of labourers in his turn to carry on his more extended operations.

This is not a fanciful picture of what may be done, it is a bare statement of what is frequently accomplished in Upper Canada by the better class of poor emigrants of all countries. One instance out of many just presents itself to my recollection, of an emigrant from Yorkshire, who upon landing from a schooner in the harbour of York, the

capital of Upper Canada, casually directed his steps to my house, and requested me to give him something for himself and family. He was a robust, stout man, and I felt some degree of mortification at hearing a person, who by his looks seemed to bid defiance to ordinary adversity, ask charity, and I remonstrated with him for degrading himself, by asking as an act of charity for that small pittance, which a few hours' honest industry would have entitled him to demand as a right. The poor fellow had feeling, and shewed, by the tear starting from his eye, that he was no common beggar, and was as conscious of his own temporary degradation as I was, and excused himself by telling me, that he had landed from the vessel which had just entered the harbour—had paid his last shilling for his passage—was an emigrant, as his dialect amply confirmed, fresh from Yorkshire—knew nobody and wanted a meal for himself and his family—was willing to work, but had had no time for seeking employment. I gave him what I considered proper instructions for his future conduct, and a small sum to supply

his present wants. I saw nothing more of him for nine months, when he entered my yard one day with a load of oats for sale. I went into the granary to see them, and recognised my Yorkshire acquaintance, with a countenance bespeaking at once gratitude for the trifle I had given him, and pride in the consciousness of his present independence. I bought his oats, and was much pleased to see how industry alone in such a country was sure to be attended by competence.

The man, by his own account, had taken a farm to till upon shares, which is a mode commonly adopted in Upper Canada, and his proportion that year had placed him in comparative affluence.

The usual terms of cropping farms on shares in Upper Canada, where the tenant has no team of his own, is to allow him half the produce of the arable land, and one-third of the hay, the landlord furnishing all farming-stock, seed, utensils, and a house for the tenant to live in. Cropping land upon shares is a plan which I would earnestly

recommend to practical agriculturists, of little or no capital when first they arrive in Canada. Farms are to be had in abundance upon these terms, in all parts of the country, and if emigrants turned their attention to them more than they do, I am satisfied they would find it more for their advantage. An emigrant may take a farm for one or more years as it suits his views; and therefore it is obvious that if he does nothing more than maintain himself and family by his year's crop, he will have gained a year's experience, and have acquired a knowledge of the country, which will lead him to the selection of such a residence as will best answer his expectation. A man should never be too hasty in fixing himself permanently, for when once established, it is very difficult to get ones money again without long credit, and thereby men are frequently prevented from going to a part of the country most agreeable to them, and discontentedly remain in a neighbourhood they do not like.

If an emigrant is a single man, I would

recommend his hiring himself to some one of the best farmers for a twelvemonth, to acquire a knowledge of the practice of the country, and look around him, and gain experience. He will always find farmers inclined to hire labourers, provided they will take some agricultural productions for their wages, which emigrants are generally averse to doing, and thereby the labourer often loses a good place with a respectable farmer, from whom he would gain more useful information than his wages would be worth, from a foolish determination to take nothing but money in exchange for his work, and they will rather go to some of the towns and work as occasional labourers, at buildings, public works, or as menial servants, for less wages, than remain with farmers and get grain or cattle for their hire. The consequence is that, from a want of regular employment, they become unsteady, frequent public houses, and acquire dissolute habits, which often ends in entire worthlessness.

After a man has cropped a farm upon

shares, or lived with a farmer for a twelve-month, he will be enabled to form some idea of what ought to be his future conduct. If he has a year's clothing and provisions in hand, which he may have, if he has been industrious and frugal, he may purchase upon credit such a portion of wood land, as he thinks he can eventually pay for, and during the ensuing year clear and put into crop sufficient to feed his family and a little to spare, to pay the first year's interest on his purchase.

The usual mode of selling land in Canada to people of no property, is to give them from five to seven, sometimes ten, and even fifteen years' credit, paying the interest of six per cent. annually, and after the first two or three years have elapsed, a portion of the principal, to be agreed upon between the parties. Proper instruments of writing are of course interchanged, binding each party to perform his contract. The security the seller has, consists in the daily improvement of the property which he sold, but for which he still withdraws the title, by the cultivation of the

purchaser; and the purchaser must be careful, either that the seller is responsible, in point of capital, to make good his engagement, or require a deed of it in the first instance, giving a mortgage for the safety of the vender, all which is effected at a trifling cost, frequently not exceeding two guineas, which is generally paid by the seller in equal portions with the purchaser.

For single emigrant families, I consider it more advantageous to buy land in a neighbourhood where there are roads already made, by which they can go at once to their respective habitations, than to seek a grant thereof from the crown, in a situation remote from other inhabitants, without roads, and devoid of all those advantages attendant upon prior settlements.

If a large body of emigrants come together, and can get a grant of land in a block, whither they may join in cutting a road, and where they at once form a neighbourhood of themselves, it may be very advisable for them to avail themselves of his Majesty's bounty; for

a solitary family, however, to go five or six miles into the woods, away from any human being, is appalling enough to an American, who is accustomed to the wilderness, but for an European emigrant, it is too much for ordinary resolution to encounter; and the difficulties attendant on such a situation, are such as none but an experienced woodsman can surmount. Besides, the settler must pay certain fees to the government for his grant, (which in those remote situations, where alone land can now be obtained from the government, in the ordinary course,) added to the expense of labour in cutting a road, removing a family, transporting provisions, and the prospect of having to keep the road in repair for an indefinite period, with the loss of time in going backwards and forwards such a distance to the neighbouring settlements, every time he is driven by his new and lonely situation to the necessity of seeking either assistance or advice, is more than the grant is worth. These considerations induce me to recommend persons so situated, to buy their land, in preference to

obtaining it from the crown. The fee-simple of wild lands in townships, partially settled, may be bought at from 7s. 6d. to 50s. per acre, all perhaps equally good as to quality of soil, but differing in the extent of the improvements of the surrounding country. If a man has the cash in his pocket, he may often get lands very cheap from necessitous people, who are obliged to sell, as well as at auctions.

As a good labourer can earn 40s. or 50s. per month, besides his board, it is plain that if he is frugal, he can save money enough in one year, to make a large payment upon a purchase of 50 acres in an advantageous situation, at 20s. per acre, being as high as it would be judicious for such a man to go, under almost any circumstances—and I have known many instances of men with families, not worth a farthing, contracting for the purchase of 50 and 100 acres of land, at from 7s. 6d. to 15s. per acre, trusting solely to their own labour for realizing the purchase-money off the land, when reduced into cultivation, within the time stipulated.

MODE OF FARMING.

If a settler selects an uncultivated portion of land covered with wood, which is generally most advisable for him to do, his first employment is to clear off an acre, leaving no large trees near enough to the place he intends building upon, to endanger the house, in case a gust of wind should blow any of them down. He should select a spot as near as he can to a never-failing spring or brook, for the convenience of his family and cattle. He then builds his house of the trunks of the moderate-sized trees, of a foot or eighteen inches in diameter, according to his fancy, cutting the logs according to the length and breadth of his building, the ends of which are dovetailed together at the different corners of the house; the usual height is about eleven feet, which, with the roof, affords a ground-floor, and a garret. His barn and stabling are built in the same manner. When the walls of the house are thus erected, the windows and doors are then cut out of the walls where the owner

pleases, and the dwelling may be finished according to the means of the party, and either become a warm and comfortable habitation, or remain a mere hut—though the poorest settler may render it warm by filling the spaces between the logs with split wood and clay, and plenty of fuel being at command, no one suffers from cold, unless he be too idle to cut wood, and bring it home.

The mode of clearing land of its wood is simple, and costs in general, if a man hires it done, from three to four guineas per acre, fencing with rails included. The brushwood is first cut down close to the ground, and piled in heaps to dry, then the larger trees are felled, leaving their stumps breast-high to the woodsman. These trees are then cut into such lengths as the team to be employed in rolling them together can draw with a chain along the ground, reserving such parts as are best adapted to the purpose for fencing the field. In a few years the stumps rot out, and leave the field clear of any obstruction. For the first three or four years

after a man has settled on a new farm, it is better each year to lay down what he clears with grass, at the time he puts in his winter crop, and clear fresh land for the next year without ploughing at all. He thereby gets abundance of hay and pasture, gives time for the stumps to rot, and by degrees enlarges the quantity of cleared land to what he considers sufficient for regular farming. At the end of the third, fourth, or fifth year he may begin to break up the first field for tilth, and proceed one year after another until the whole has been subjected to the plough, which, when once accomplished, opens the road to a regular course of English husbandry.

PRICES OF PROVISIONS, STOCK, &c.

| | s. | d. | s. | d. | |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|------------|
| Wheat varies from | 2 | 6 | 5 | 0 | Win. bush. |
| Oats | 0 | 9 | 1 | 6 | do. |
| Pease | 1 | 6 | 4 | 0 | do. |
| Grass-fed beef . | 15 | 0 | 30 | 0 | the cwt. |
| Pork about the same price. | | | | | |

Christmas is the cheapest season for buying.

| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
|--------------------|----|----|---------|-----------|
| Mutton varies from | 0 | 2 | to 0 | 4 per lb. |
| Butter ,, | 0 | 6 | to 1 | 0 do. |
| Wool averages | 2 | 0 | per lb. | |

Hay in the autumn averages about two guineas the ton, and gets dearer towards the spring. Cows in calf are worth from three to five guineas a head, the latter being an extreme price. Oxen for work bring from 15*l.* to 20*l.* per pair. Store sheep are worth from 7*s.* 6*d.* to 15*s.* a head. Horses for farming-work vary from 20*l.* to 50*l.* the pair. A good waggon may be bought for about fifteen guineas, and from that to twenty. Oxen, however, are generally used on new farms, and are much preferable to horses.

THE LAWS OF UPPER CANADA.

The constitution of Upper Canada is an epitome of that of England. There is a Parliament consisting of the governor, who is the king's representative; the Legislative Council, the members whereof are appointed during life by the King, represents

the House of Lords; and the House of Commons are elected by the free voice of each freeholder possessing an estate of forty shillings annual value, the same as in England, which privilege is possessed by most of the inhabitants, and may be acquired by any pauper in England, who is able and willing to work, after a two years' residence;—consequently there are no poor-laws in Canada. The taxes of an ordinary farmer amount to about ten shillings and sixpence a year, with five or six days' work on the road which passes his own house; therefore I may be permitted to say, that there are comparatively no taxes. Tithes also never existed, but to quiet the minds of the people they have been formally abolished by Act of Parliament. Every man who can borrow a gun, and buy a charge of powder and shot, has a right to shoot what he pleases, from a buck down to a squirrel, and from the royal swan to a wood-pecker; consequently there are neither game-laws, game-keepers, nor poachers. These, together with the bankrupt laws, constitute

the principal exceptions to the general adoption of the laws of England, both criminal and civil. The assizes are held once a year during the summer throughout the province, where causes are tried by juries of the country, as they are here. There are sheriffs, justices of the peace, and constables executing the same duties as are performed by the like persons in England, and every individual, whether high or low, is equally protected.

BAGGAGE OF COLONISTS.

The baggage of the poorer class of emigrants should chiefly consist of strong clothing of different kinds, and that part of bedding which is least bulky. Feathers can be bought for two shillings per pound in the country. All heavy or bulky furniture should be left behind, as it can be replaced in Canada at an easy rate. Chairs, tables, bedsteads, sideboards, sofas, wardrobes, &c., are made to order in most of the towns, as good as are usually made in the country towns in England. Books, and all kinds of light orna-

mental furniture, and carpeting, had better be brought out by those persons whose circumstances will warrant the use of them; though most kinds of English manufactures may be had in the chief towns, but of course at rather higher prices than in England.

ROADS AND MODES OF CONVEYANCE.

Besides the numerous cross-roads which intersect the interior of the country, there is one grand line of communication from the eastern boundary to the most western extremity of the organized portion of the province in the western district. The whole of this main road is passable for waggons, and gentlemen's carriages may be driven with comfort upon more than half of it. The roads, however, are daily improving; and as far westward as Niagara, public stages are established for those seasons of the year that steam-boats do not ply. Between Montreal and Prescott there are daily coaches, which travel from five to seven miles an hour, and are very commodious. From thence, up the

country, the steam-boats in the summer supersede all other modes of conveyance; and in winter, travelling in sleighs is very pleasant and expeditious in all parts of the province.

The Welland canal, which is now cutting, a few miles to the westward of the Falls of Niagara, to connect the waters of Lakes Erie and Ontario, is in a very active and vigorous state of forwardness, and will add to the means of internal communication naturally afforded by those lakes, and to the commerce of the country, in a degree scarcely to be imagined. Last Autumn, there were upwards of seven hundred people employed upon this great work, and it is hoped that the whole will be completed during the year 1827. It is calculated for the passage of vessels of 120 tons burthen, which usually traverse those extensive waters, and when completed, will open an uninterrupted navigation from Prescott and Ogdensburg, on the River St. Lawrence, for all craft used in navigating the Canadian seas, to the western shores of Lakes Huron and Michigan, and, if the obstructions were

removed at the Sault of St. Mary, to the Head of Lake Superior; a distance of more than 1200 miles, or upwards of 3000 miles of coast.

SUPERIORITY OF UPPER CANADA OVER THE
UNITED STATES, AS A COUNTRY FOR THE
RECEPTION OF EMIGRANTS.

I would recommend all emigrants to go to some of the British Possessions in North America, but more especially to Upper Canada, in preference to any other of the colonies, or to any foreign state.

The United States have become so populous, that they are independent of emigration; and a few emigrants sprinkled here and there over that vast country, are like grains of sand on the sea-shore. In that country they will be foreigners, and will find in all their intercourse with the Americans that they are so considered. They form no proportion to the natural population anywhere, (with the solitary exception of the Irish in New York,) and therefore they have no weight in the

relations of society; whereas, in Upper Canada, emigrants are so numerous everywhere, that they have an influence in the transactions of their neighbourhoods; and in many parts of the country they compose the majority.

In the United States, any public employment, either of honour or profit, is naturally given to a natural-born citizen, in preference to a foreigner of any nation. In Upper Canada the emigrant from the mother country will find no such distinction operating to his prejudice. And though last, not the least, of all the moral objections to going to the United States instead of Canada, is the necessity that the emigrant will find himself under, if he intends to end his days there in peace and quietness, of swearing allegiance to the United States, and especially renouncing his allegiance to his natural sovereign. And when he has done that, he must affect, at all events, to like every thing American in preference to what he has been accustomed to at home, whether in reality he does so or not, or be looked upon as a suspicious sort of person,

who, although he has sworn allegiance, is not in sentiment a true American. But should he even succeed by this sacrifice of feeling, or what would be worse, by actually expatriating his mind as well as his body, in acquiring the confidence of the lower class, he will be sure to be thought the worse of, in consequence, by the higher.

In all the older states, land has become extremely valuable, and is only to be had at high prices, and therefore is quite beyond the reach of the poorer class of emigrants. And if he goes to the newly-organized states or territories in the western part of the Union, he will find no reason to prefer the best of them to Upper Canada, but many to induce him to make choice of the latter.

The price of land is greater, and the taxes very much higher in all of them than in Upper Canada; and the climate is not so good in any. Those western countries are much warmer in the summer; are not so well watered; are more flat and intersected by large savannahs or wild meadows, without

any small brooks, streams or springs passing through them, all of which subject these portions of the United States to annual fevers, which, though far from being generally mortal, are, nevertheless, very fatal to the European emigrant; injure the constitution, and produce in the inhabitants a sallow, unhealthy appearance.

Besides, the distance of these New States from the ocean is much greater than that of Upper Canada, and their situation altogether, as regards Europe, is much more remote, consequently it is much more expensive removing a family thither, than it would be to Canada; there is not so great a facility in sending or receiving letters, or getting English news as in Canada, where feelings and ideas partake of those of the mother country, which is called by the endearing appellation of "Home," even by persons who were never out of the colony. Moreover, in those remote western parts of the Union, the laws are not so impartially administered as they are either in Canada or in the Old States, owing,

a great deal, to political causes; and people very commonly wear dirks and other secret weapons to protect themselves from personal violence, and sometimes, I fear, to inflict it upon the unwary; and instances are not wanting of atrocious murders and robberies going unpunished, from the political influence of the offender.

I do not wish, by any means, to be understood as insinuating that such is the state of American society generally;—far from it. I know that the very instances which I could name are held up to public execration with as much abhorrence in New York and all the older parts of the country, as they would be in London. I mean merely to put Englishmen upon their guard, that they may not go to these countries in preference to our own colonies, under an idea of finding all that impartiality and excellence which some men imagine must exist in communities where people govern themselves.

The great inducements for people to emigrate to Upper Canada, are—the cheapness of

land and provisions; the certainty of employment; the excellence of the soil and climate; the moderate distance it is from the Mother Country; and the similarity of its laws, habits, customs, and general state of society to those of England; none of which exist in the same degree in those parts of the United States, where a poor emigrant would have any chance of becoming a landed proprietor. Many people from ignorance go to New York, a city as large as Liverpool, to which latter place it would be as sensible to emigrate from any other part of England, as to the former. Every profession, trade, and employment is full in the large towns in the United States, and there is no opening for the poor man in any of them.

Although I have greatly exceeded the limits which I had prescribed to myself when I began to put my thoughts on paper for the use of the labouring poor, being drawn on by the interest which I feel upon this subject, I cannot refrain from saying a few words in conclusion to the small capitalist.

Men of two hundred a year are enabled to live with great comfort and respectability upon their own farms in the country; with proper economy they may keep two or three servants, with their horse and gig to drive to church in, and see their children gradually settling around them, and in their turn filling a respectable station in society. Of course, men of larger fortunes with large families will find their account in settling in Upper Canada; for, although a man of six or seven hundred pounds a year, in the decline of life, would perhaps enjoy more personal comfort by remaining where he is, yet he would find much to cheer him at the close of his career in Upper Canada, in the reflection that he would leave his numerous progeny independent; which such a man would do in that country with more certainty than one possessing three times the sum could hope to do in England.

The farmer and the mechanic, who have been reduced to, or never had more than a small capital, cannot lay it out anywhere

to so good advantage as in Canada. A hundred pounds in his pocket on his arrival, will buy land enough to maintain himself and family with comfort; and he must remember, that every year that he lives on his own estate gives an additional value to it, as landed property rises rapidly by cultivation in all new countries.

THE END.

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